## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 20, 2010. Claims 1 to 8, 10 and 11 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 8 and 10 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Figure 3 was objected to for its use of reference characters "17" and "18", which are not mentioned in the specification. Figure 3 has been amended to eliminate these reference characters. Applicant has also amended paragraph [0051] of the specification to correctly indicate reference character S709, instead of reference character S719. Withdrawal of the objections, and approval of the drawings are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 7 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a). Claim 1 has been amended to attend to this objection, and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,570,205 (Sugita) in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication 07-283894 (Kawasaki). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sugita in view of Kawasaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent 3,688,032 (Dixon). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

The claims generally concern an image communication apparatus, such as a facsimile machine. A medium conveying mechanism of the image communication apparatus is used in common to convey an original sheet to be read and for conveying a

recording sheet on which first image data is recorded. The medium conveying mechanism is constructed such that its use in reading the original sheet is exclusive of its use in recording on the recording sheet.

According to one aspect, the medium conveying mechanism is controlled to automatically switch from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after the original sheet has been read and the first image data has been received.

By controlling the medium conveying mechanism to automatically switch from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet, it is ordinarily possible to automatically record received first image data after reading is completed, despite using a single medium conveying mechanism.

Referring specifically to the claim language, independent Claim 8 is directed to a control method of an image communication apparatus. A medium conveying mechanism of the image communication apparatus is used in common to convey an original sheet read by a reading means and for conveying a recording sheet on which first image data is recorded by a recording means. The first image data is received and is accumulated in a memory, which in turn is read, and recorded by the recording means. On the other hand, the reading means reads the original sheet and obtains second image data, which is transmitted. The medium conveying mechanism is constructed such that the use of the medium conveying mechanism in reading the original sheet is exclusive of the use of the medium conveying mechanism in recording the first image data on the recording sheet.

In a case where the reading of the original sheet and transmitting of the second image data is instructed while the first image data is received and accumulated, the

original sheet is read and the second image data is obtained while the first image data is received, and before the first image data is recorded on the recording sheet. The first image data is recorded on the recording sheet while the second image data is transmitted, and the medium conveying mechanism is controlled to automatically switch from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after completion of the reading of the original sheet and completion of the reception of the first image data.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 are directed to an image communication apparatus and computer-readable memory medium, respectively, that substantially correspond to the control method of Claim 8.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 8 and 10, and in particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of controlling a medium conveying mechanism used in common to convey an original sheet read by a reading means and for conveying a recording sheet on which first image data is recorded, such that the medium conveying mechanism is controlled to automatically switch from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after completion of the reading of the original sheet and completion of a reception of the first image data.

Sugita is seen to disclose a facsimile apparatus having a carrier path used dually for an original sheet and a recording sheet. As shown in Figure 1 of Sugita, either an original sheet or a recording sheet is inserted into the carrier path in the direction of arrow Q, and is exhausted in the direction of arrow W subsequent to a reading operation or a recording operation. See Sugita, column 2, lines 49 to 56. The original sheet in Sugita is

conveyed by the carrier path after an operator depresses switch 33 of the facsimile apparatus and the presence of the original sheet is detected by detecting sensor $S_{11}$. See Sugita, column 4, lines 32 to 44. Alternatively, when the operator releases the on-state of switch 33 and a receiving signal is detected, the recording sheet is conveyed by the carrier path if the presence of the recording sheet is detected by detecting sensor $S_{11}$.

However, Sugita is not understood to disclose or suggest controlling the carrier path to automatically switch from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after completion of the reading of the original sheet and completion of a reception of first image data.

Accordingly, Sugita is not seen to disclose or suggest controlling a medium conveying mechanism used in common to convey an original sheet read by a reading means and for conveying a recording sheet on which first image data is recorded, such that the medium conveying mechanism is controlled to automatically switch from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after completion of the reading of the original sheet and completion of a reception of the first image data.

As understood by Applicant, Kawasaki discloses a facsimile machine including image reading part 5 and printer 6. See, Kawasaki, Drawing 1 and paragraph [0012]. Image reading part 5 scans a manuscript for facsimile transmission, whereas printer 6 prints drawing data from a received facsimile transmission. However, neither image reading part 5 nor printer 6 of Kawasaki is seen to disclose or suggest a medium conveying mechanism used in common to convey a manuscript scanned by image reading part 5 and for conveying a recording sheet on which drawing data is printed by printer 6.

In addition, because Kawasaki does not show a medium conveying mechanism used for both reading and recording, it logically follows that Kawasaki could not disclose or suggest controlling such a medium conveying mechanism to automatically switch from conveying an original sheet to conveying a recording sheet.

Accordingly, Kawasaki is not seen to disclose or suggest controlling a medium conveying mechanism used in common to convey an original sheet read by a reading means and for conveying a recording sheet on which first image data is recorded, such that the medium conveying mechanism is controlled to automatically switch from conveying the original sheet to conveying the recording sheet after completion of the reading of the original sheet and completion of a reception of the first image data.

Dixon has been reviewed, but is not seen to compensate for the above-noted deficiencies of Sugita and Kawasaki.

As a consequence, it is further respectfully submitted that a combination of Sugita, Kawasaki and Dixon, assuming that such a combination would even be permissible, would not share the advantageous effects of the image communication apparatus claimed herein. For example, such a combination would not share the advantageous effect of ordinarily allowing an automatic recording of received first image data after reading an original sheet is completed, despite using a single medium conveying mechanism.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 8 and 10 are believed to be allowable over the applied art.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from Claim 1, and

are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied art for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For example, with reference to newly-added Claim 11, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest a medium conveying mechanism including an openable medium conveying path, and controlling the medium conveying mechanism to automatically switch from conveying an original sheet to conveying a recording sheet by opening the medium conveying path for the recording sheet.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

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